

Flathead County Health Department Meeting

First Direct folks to copy of Public Notice – Direct attendees to the correct locations to provide comments, locations of documentation record.

Summary

Site Background and Sampling Results

Need for more Investigations

NPL and Next Steps

Site Background/Site Reassessment

EPA conducted a Site Reassessment sampling event in September and October 2013.

Objectives of Site Reassessment/Sampling

Screening Investigation vs. Remedial Investigation

Identify types of hazards on site

Has there be an observed release?

Focused on areas downgradient of West Landfill, Center Landfill, East Landfill, North Percolation Ponds, South Percolation Ponds. **Refer to Figure 2 and 4.**

Spent Potliner was landfilled on site from 1950s to 1980s. Spent pot liner is known to contain cyanide. Fluoride sludge was landfilled on site as well.

Completed a Site Reassessment Report in April 2014.

Sample Results

Site Reassessment compared down gradient samples to up gradient samples.

Samples from groundwater monitoring wells down gradient of sources had contaminants above MCLs including cyanide, fluoride, arsenic, chromium, lead and selenium. Other contaminants were present as well.

Groundwater on site is not consumed so MCL comparison is for illustrative purposes. Although groundwater on site is not consumed, it would have potential to migrate.

Five domestic wells sampled as part of Site Reassessment; 2 had detectable levels of cyanide, but below MCLs.

Columbia Falls' municipal wells were not sampled as part of the site reassessment, but these wells are monitored through SDWA. No indications of contaminants.

Table with sample result information (*if questions arise*)

COC	Highest On site Concentration (ug/L)	MCL (ug/L)	Potential health affects (from EPA MCL website)
Cyanide	1,040	200	Nerve damage or thyroid problems
Fluoride	190,000	4,000	Bone disease

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Arsenic (dissolved)	344	10	Skin damage or problems with circulatory systems, and may have increased risk of getting cancer
Chromium (total)	156	100	Allergic dermatitis
Lead (total)	59.3	MCLG = 0	Infants and children: Delays in physical or mental development; Adults: Kidney problems; high blood pressure
Selenium (dissolved)	96.4	50	Hair or fingernail loss; numbness in fingers or toes; circulatory problems

Flathead River, or its sediments, had detections of cyanide, manganese and fluoride. Cedar Creek had detections of cyanide. Further downstream Flathead River Samples did not have detectable amounts of contaminants.

No fish tissues were sampled as part of the screening investigation.

Removal Investigation

Responding to cyanide detections in domestic wells during the initial investigation, EPA's has since sampled domestic wells downgradient of plant during two additional sampling events.

April 2014 – sampled 20 domestic wells.

November 2014 – sampled 10 domestic wells.

During both sampling events, no contaminants were detected above screening levels. Notably, cyanide was not detected.

Summarize Knowns

Groundwater is impacted at the site.

Most recent two rounds of domestic well samples have not shown contaminants. However, contaminants have been detected in the past in domestic wells, Cedar Creek and the Flathead River.

Contaminants are migrating off site.

Unknowns

Scope of groundwater contamination?

Future impacts to nearby receptors potentially including groundwater users, potential site workers, surface water users?

DEQ Glencore Discussions

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During summer of 2014, MDEQ and CFAC entered negotiations for a CFAC led investigation. CFAC called off negotiations in December.

NPL and Comment Period

After negotiations were called off, EPA proposed to add the site to the National Priorities List. Governor Bullock concurred with this action in a letter to EPA on February 17th. The proposed action began a 60 day public comment period, which will end June 2nd. EPA invites interested parties to submit their comments via one of the four methods discussed in the public notice (**refer folks to copies of the public notice**).

Next Steps

The next steps in the Superfund process are the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. The objectives of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) are to assess site conditions, determine the nature and extent of contamination, and evaluate alternatives to the extent necessary to select a remedy. This will expand on the screening level investigation already completed at the site.

Generally, the EPA first looks to the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) to lead the additional investigation under a legally binding agreement with EPA oversight. If the PRPs are not willing to complete the work under a legally binding agreement, the EPA would then look to other authorities, including completing an EPA led Remedial Investigation and then recover the costs from the PRPs.